

From High Tech to High Touch!

The Second Annual Rubiconn Holiday Gift Guide



The **Microsoft XBOX 360 Kinect** starts where the Nintendo Wii left off—a video game that requires the player get off the couch. The Kinect is a full body motion sensor and

voice activated sensor bar. With the Kinect, there is no controller. You control the system with your hand movements, your voice, your full body.

If you already own an XBOX 360, you may purchase the Kinect sensor alone for approximately \$150. Otherwise, the XBOX 360 has several bundles that include the main console, the Kinect sensor and 1 or 2 games, prices vary beginning at \$299. The Kinect is available at all major electronics stores.



The iPad is still one of the hottest gadgets around. With the iPad iOS 4.2 update just released, even some long-time skeptics have embraced the iPad. Once you download the free 4.2 update, one of the new cool features is Find My iPad, which will help you locate a lost or stolen iPad on a map and remotely wipe the device, removing your personal data and information. While you are playing with your new iPad, don't forget to check out the other neat

Apps like Angry Birds. The survival of the Angry Birds is at stake. Dish out revenge on the green pigs who stole the Birds' eggs. Use the unique destructive powers of the Angry Birds to lay waste to the pigs' fortified castles. Each of the 195 levels requires logic, skill, and brute force to crush the enemy. The iPad is available from www.apple.com starting at \$499. The Angry Birds application is available from the App Store for 99 cents.



The Sony Bloggie Touch

Share your world with the compact MHS-TS20 Bloggie Touch camera. It features 8GB of built-in storage, recording up to four hours of beautiful HD video. You can also snap 12.8-megapixel still photos, with an automatic macro mode that lets you get shoot close-ups from only four inches away. The vivid 3.0" (diag.) capacitive touch screen makes it easy to touch and slide through all of your photos and videos. For simple shooting and reviewing your shots, the screen view automatically rotates from vertical to horizontal depending on how you hold the camera. Finally, there's pre-installed software in the camera that lets you tag your pictures and videos for easy uploading to sites like YouTube and Facebook. Available at various retailers like www.newegg.com for \$199.99



Do you need a Video Camera a little more WATERPROOF??

Heads up, adrenaline junkies. The **KODAK PLAYSPORT** has as much appetite for adventure as you do. And it's not afraid to get wet. This audacious little camera can plunge up to 10 ft under water and capture the entire experience in full 1080p HD. With built-in image stabilization, the KODAK PLAYSPORT will stay steady as a rock. From the waves, to the slopes, to the mud-soaked trails, this baby was made for the extremes. This video camera can be purchased from www.store.kodak.com or other retailers for approximately \$150.



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Rubiconn Holiday Gift Guide—Notebooks, PCs and Monitors



The Rubiconn Team is loving the new line of Lenovo Thinkpad Notebooks. They are very fast and responsive systems. Here is our recommendation for best bang for the buck:

Lenovo Thinkpad T410 for \$949.00
 Windows 7 Professional 64 Bit
 Intel Core i5-560M Processor
 2GB DDR3 RAM
 320GB 7200RPM SATA Hard Drive
 DVD-RW Drive
 1280X800 Resolution Screen
 Memory card reader, WiFi, Modem, 6 Cell Battery, etc.
 1 Year Limited Warranty
 (upgrade to 4GB RAM, 3 Year Warranty, Bluetooth and webcam for \$150 additional)
May be purchased through Rubiconn, contact us at 925-478-5243 ext 3004

For Desktop Computers, one of the best deals is for the Dell Optiplex 380 Mini-Tower PC with Monitor for \$899.00

Dell Optiplex 380 Mini-Tower
 Windows 7 Professional 32-Bit
 Intel Core 2 Duo E7500 Processor w/ VT
 4GB DDR3 RAM
 256MB ATI Radeon HD Video Card

Dell E2210H 21.5" LCD Monitor
 Dell AX510PA Sound Bar for Monitor
 USB keyboard and USB 6 button laser mouse
 DVD-RW Drive
 320GB 7200RPM SATA Hard Drive
 3 Year Basic Limited Warranty with 3 Year Next Business Day Onsite Support
May be purchased through Rubiconn, contact us at 925-478-5243 ext 3004



Dell is currently showcasing a limited time offer on the **Dell 24 inch ST2420L Flat Panel Monitor** at a bargain price of \$184.99. This is, by far, one of the best deals out there right now for a flat panel monitor of this size and quality. You can snag one of these at www.dell.com, click on the home store to purchase. Get it quick, Dell does not tell us when this special pricing ends, but we assume it's before Christmas Day.

Do your eyes hurt from staring at the screen all day? GUNNAR Optiks makes digital performance eyewear that enables the human visual system to achieve

a higher level of performance while in front of any digital screen.



GUNNAR eyewear also protects the eye from the negative side effects associated with using computers or television screens. Users will notice an immediate increase in contrast, detail and optical resolutions as well as a decrease in glare and visual fatigue. ; i-Fi lens coating filters transmitted light and protects the lens. The anti-reflective portion cuts down on distracting glare and extraneous light while several coatings cut down on water spots, smudging, fingerprints, and scratching. ; fRACTAL lens geometry is precisely tuned to specific distances for reduced visual stress when looking at digital screens. extended periods of time . These glasses are available at www.newegg.com or www.sears.com and various other retailers for approximately \$79.00. There are various styles to choose from. Rubiconn staff have not tested these yet, but they are on our list of things to purchase this holiday season.

Holiday Virus Warning



Viruses are always a threat during the holidays. While Rubiconn does provide excellent protection from viruses and spam

through our Barracuda spam firewall, there is still a slight chance that you may receive a virus in your email box. Here are some common ways to lessen your chance of accidentally infecting your work computer:

1. **Read Email carefully before you CLICK.**

The common holiday virus we see is a message that appears like it is from UPS or FedEx indicating your package can not be delivered. It often has spelling errors and is grammatically incorrect. Once you click on the attachment, the only package you get is a nifty virus packed with pop-up windows!

2. **Use your home email address when ordering online / don't check your home email at work.** Not only will this reduce your amount of spam received, but it will also help prevent receiving viruses on

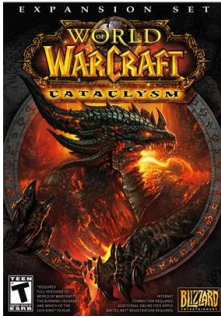
your work computers.

3. **Don't just Click. Click. Click...** We all like to do it... ooh, a link... Ooh, an attachment... Click, Click, Click. But just as you would not walk out into the street without looking both ways, don't just click without reading what you are clicking on.

Rubiconn wishes everyone safe and happy computing this holiday season!



Rubiconn Holiday Gift Guide—Stocking Stuffers



Arriving on D-Day—the long awaited and highly anticipated latest installment of **The World of Warcraft: Cataclysm Expansion Set**. We know one Rubiconn member that is really hoping to receive

this for the holidays, and it might surprise you as to who... It's been 2 years since the last expansion pack was released and with 11.5 million current subscribers, we are sure you might know someone who plays Warcraft and would LOVE to receive this game expansion in their stocking. Cataclysm can be purchased after December 7th at most major electronics retailers as well as online at www.worldofwarcraft.com or www.newegg.com

This is how all true geeks like to wake up in the morning... with their very own Stormtrooper or Darth Vader Lego Alarm Clock. With poseable arms and legs and a nice digital belly, you can wake up in style. Available at www.thinkgeek.com for \$29.99.

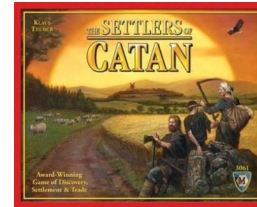


Many of our clients ask us how they can get better and faster performance out of their laptops. Here's a way to boost per-

formance and extend the life of your laptop for a relatively less-expensive price: replace your existing laptop hard drive with a new Solid State Drive. The beauty of a Solid State Hard Drive is that they have no moving parts! There is no spindle or platter that the hard drive has to use to write data. Solid State Hard Drives use Flash Memory technology, which makes them quick, responsive and less wear and tear on the actual physical device. Also, Windows 7 allows you to use a Solid State Hard Drive as additional memory with ReadyBoost.

We find that for the average business laptop user, a 60GB Solid State Hard Drive is sufficient and cost effective as a component upgrade to your laptop system. OCZ has a highly rated 60GB Solid State Drive available for approximately \$135, part number OCZSSD2-2AGTE60G. Your laptop will need to support SATA interface in order to use this drive. Most laptops released within the last 4 years use SATA interface.

Desktop users might want to consider a larger hard drive size, such as the Intel 120GB Solid State Drive, available for approximately \$229, part number SSD-SA2MH120G2K5



Tired of video games and electronics, do you desire some retro -fun for the whole family? **The Settlers of Catan**

board game has a huge following in the geek world, but you don't need to be a geek to play it. This game is an all time favorite game of Rubiconn's General Manager. Players are recent immigrants to the newly populated island of Catan. Expand your colony through the building of settlements, roads, and villages by harvesting commodities from the land around you. Trade with other players, or at local seaports to get resources you might lack. The first player to achieve 10 points from a combination of roads, settlements, and special cards wins. Available from Amazon for about \$35.

RUBY-LICIOUS RECIPES



A favorite recipe from Sarah Ruby

Aunt Vern's Carmels

This is an old family recipe from my Aunt Vern, my great-grandpa's sister. I

make these caramels every year and take them to my cookie exchange. These caramels are a more mild

flavor, soft and buttery, not the everyday hard caramel candy. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup white Karo syrup
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk

(requires candy thermometer)

Preparation Directions:

Stir sugar, butter, and karo constantly, boiling for three minutes or until 245 degrees. Take off heat and add sweetened condensed milk. Add vanilla and nuts if desired. Beat until quite stiff. Pour into a buttered 9x9 inch pan and let cool. Cut up in small pieces and wrap in wax paper.



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Pleasanton, CA 94566

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Sacramento, CA

**Send us a Referral and
we'll send you an
iPod Shuffle**



Contact Michaela Hertle at 925-478-5243 ext 3004
or email: Michaela@rubiconn.com

From High Tech
to High Touch!

**CUT Your Computer Support
Expenses**

A pair of gold-handled scissors is shown cutting a blue ribbon. The word "Expense" is written in large, bold, black letters across the ribbon, and the scissors are positioned to cut through it.

**Call RUBICONN Now!
(925) 478-5243**